THE ASIAN AGE

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WINDOWS

PAN-Aadhaar link deadline further extended to Mar 31

New Delhi: The government on Friday extended the deadline for mandatory linking of PAN with Aadhaar by three months to March 31, 2018. This is the third extension given by the government to individual taxpayers to link PAN with the biometric ID. As of November, 13.28 crore out of 33 crore PANs have been linked to Aadhaar. The earlier deadline for PAN-Aadhaar linkage was December 31

Full report on Page 15

Businessman Moninder Singh Pandher being taken to jail after a CBI court in Ghaziabad sentenced him to death on Friday. — *PTI*

Nithari case: Koli, Pandher get death

Ghaziabad: A special CBI court on Friday awarded death sentence to Chandigarh businessman Moninder Singh Pandher and his servant Surender Koli for rape and murder of a 24-year-old maid in the Nithari killings case. This was the third case in which both Pandher and Koli were convicted.

Full report on Page 13

Shalimar Bagh Max licence revoked

New Delhi: The Delhi government cancelled the licence of Max Hospital, Shalimar Bagh, for alleged medical negligence, including the case in which one of the twins was found alive after being declared dead by the hospital doctors.

Full report on Page 13

COUNTERPOINT

Don't worry. You will be back in the party soon... he is a Shiv bhakt after all!

WEATHER

Max: 25.2°C
Min: 9.4°C
RH: 35%
Rainfall: NIL

Forecast: Clear sky

ASTROGUIDE

Hemalaba: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Margisira Bahula Saptami till 1.43 am (Sunday)
Star: Magha till 5.45 pm
Varjyam: Sesha Varjyam till 7.41 am; then from 1.43 am to 3.18 AM (Sunday)
Durmuhurtam: 6.38 am to 8.06 am
Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am

SUNSET TODAY 5.25 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 7.03 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 11.39 PM
MOONSET TODAY 12.40 AM

A view of the snow-capped mountains seen from the top of Taradevi temple in Shimla after fresh winter snowfall at high altitudes of the Himalayan ranges on Friday. — *PTI*

SC will re-examine validity of 157-yr-old adultery law

Sec. 497 IPC punishes only men, treats women as victims

J. VENKATESAN
NEW DELHI, DEC. 8

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to revisit the constitutional validity of the archaic adultery law in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) punishing only the men and not married women for adultery by treating her as a victim and never an abettor of crime.

A three-judge bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A.M. Kanwilkar and D.Y. Chandrachud issued a notice to the Centre on a petition filed by an activist, Joseph Shine, challenging the constitutional validity of Section 497 of the IPC.

This 157-year-old provision reads: "Whoever has sexual intercourse with a person who is and whom he knows or has reason to believe to be the wife of another man, without the consent or connivance of that man, such sexual intercourse not amounting to the offence of rape, is guilty of the offence of adultery and shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, or with fine, or with both. In such case the wife shall not be punishable as an abettor."

After hearing senior counsel Kaleeswaram Raj, who appeared for the petitioner, the bench in a brief order said: "Prima facie, on a perusal of Section 497 IPC, we find it grants relief to the wife by treating her as a victim. It is also worthy to note that when an offence is committed by both of them, one is liable for the criminal offence but the other is absolved. It seems to be based on a societal presumption."

Agreeing with the counsel, Justice Chandrachud said when a law "assumes a patronising attitude to women", it needed to be seen if this meant a violation of women's fundamental right against gender discrimination under

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Maha BJP MP quits party & LS

AGE CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, DEC. 8

Nana Patole, a disgruntled BJP MP from Maharashtra who some time back had criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's style of functioning, on Friday resigned from the party and Lok Sabha and decided to join Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi at a rally in Ahmedabad on December 11. He cited 14 issues related to agriculture, economy and unemployment as reasons for his resignation.

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■ PM, Rahul trade charges on eve of 1st phase

Modi: Did Aiyar offer supari on me in Pak?

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 8

In the high-octane run-up to the crucial first phase of Assembly elections in Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi traded charges on Friday. Addressing a rally, Mr Modi carried on his attack on suspended Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar and sought to know if he had gone to Pakistan to offer a "*supari*" (contract for killing) on him.

Mr Modi said: "After I became Prime Minister, this man (Aiyar) went to Pakistan and met some Pakistanis. All this is available on the social media. In that meeting, he is seen discussing with Pakistanis that '*jab tak Modi ko raaste se hataya nahi jata...* (until Modi is not removed from the way), the relations between India and Pakistan can't improve'. Someone tell me what is the meaning of '*raaste se hatana*'. You had gone to Pakistan to give my '*supari*', you wanted to give Modi's '*supari*'."

Taking the moral high ground, Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi, while addressing a rally at Banaskantha, said: "The Congress Party respects the chair of Prime Minister. No one in the Congress is allowed to insult the Prime Minister. Modiji can say anything about us. That's why we took strict action against Mani Shankar Aiyar."

Mr Gandhi also accused the BJP of not outlining

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GUJARAT 1ST PHASE TODAY

Poll officials in Surat on Friday carry EVM machines to polling booths on the eve of the first phase of Gujarat elections. — *PTI*

Ready to face punishment, says Aiyar

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 8

Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar, suspended from the party for making derogatory remarks against the Prime Minister, said on Friday that he would accept any punishment if the party suffers damage in Gujarat polls because of his comments. "If the Congress has suffered any damage because of what I have said, then I deeply regret it," he said.

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BJP releases manifesto on election eve

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 8

Hours before the first phase of polling in Gujarat, the BJP on Friday released its manifesto promising to double farmers' income, constructing 50 lakh houses in the next five years, constructing toilets in every rural house, increasing pension for widows at regular intervals, offering affordable healthcare and building international-level universities.

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Mom, wife to meet Jadhav in Pak prison on Christmas

AGE CORRESPONDENTS
NEW DELHI/ISLAMABAD, DEC. 8

In a move described as a "positive development" and "good news" by New Delhi, Pakistan on Friday agreed to India's request to allow both the mother and wife of imprisoned former Indian naval officer Kulbhushan Jadhav to meet him. Visas will now be given to both of them for a likely meeting on December 25.

Islamabad had earlier proposed that only Mr Jadhav's wife be allowed to meet him but New Delhi had requested that his mother too be allowed to accompany her daughter-in-law.

In a series of tweets on Friday afternoon, external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj said, "The government of Pakistan has conveyed that they will give visa to the mother and wife of Kulbhushan Jadhav. I have spoken to Ms Avantika Jadhav, mother of Kulbhushan Jadhav, and informed her about this."

An MEA Spokesperson said, "It is good news as far as we are concerned. It is a positive development."

Pakistan has proposed that the meeting take place on December 25 but the Indian government is expected take a final decision on the date after consultations with Mr Jadhav's mother and wife. Islamabad will also allow an Indian

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A Palestinian woman seen in a scuffle with Israeli forces at Damascus Gate in Jerusalem's Old City on Friday during their demonstration against US President Donald Trump's announcement declaring US support for Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the moving of the US embassy. Thousands of Palestinians demonstrated, scores were hurt and at least one killed in clashes with Israeli troops on a "Day of Rage" on Friday against Mr Trump's move. ■ Report on Page 10 — *AFP*

■ Brussels warns of harder talks ahead

Britain, EU strike deal to open Brexit trade talks

Brussels, Dec. 8: Britain and the European Union reached a historic deal on Brexit divorce terms on Friday, but Brussels swiftly warned that even harder talks lie ahead on a future relationship after the split.

British Prime Minister Theresa May rushed to Brussels for early morning talks with European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker to clinch the breakthrough.

The European Commission announced that it judged "sufficient progress" had been made after Britain agreed to keep the Irish border open, pay a 40-45 billion divorce bill and protect expats' rights.

But EU president Donald Tusk — who will recommend to leaders at a summit next week to open trade and transition talks — warned that the toughest task was to come. "Let us remember that the most difficult challenge is still ahead. We all know that breaking up is hard but breaking up and building a new relation is much harder," Mr Tusk said.

Negotiators worked through the night to seal an agreement after the EU set a deadline of Sunday.

Ms May said the key part of the agreement was to ensure there would be no return of checkpoints on the frontier between British-ruled Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland after March 29, 2019, the date Britain is to leave the bloc.

Northern Irish unionists scuppered a possible deal on Monday with their fierce opposition to wording they felt would divide the North from the rest of the UK.

— *AFP*

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